

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04247 061016Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
-----082722 061017Z /12

O R 060815Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2201
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
CINCUSAFE

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, TU, BU
SUBJECT: ILL HEALTH FORCES CANCELLATION OF KORUTURK VISIT
TO BULGARIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:
IN ITS EVENING NEWS CASTS JUNE 5, TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION
REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT KORUTURK HAS BEEN FORCED TO CANCEL
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HIS PLANNED VISIT TO BULGARIA BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH. THE
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED BY THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE SAID:
"BECAUSE PRESIDENT KORUTURK IS STILL CONVALESCING
FROM THE ILLNESS WITH FEVER THAT HE SUFFERED BETWEEN MAY 18
AND 26, THE STATE VISIT TO BULGARIA BY PRESIDENT AND MRS.
KORUTURK FROM JUNE 8 - 11 HAS BEEN POSTPONED UPON THE
RECOMMENDATION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS. THE PRESIDENT AND MRS.

KORUTURK WILL VISIT BULGARIA AT A LATER DATE TO BE MUTUALLY
AGREED UPON." END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: PRESIDENT
KORUTURK HAS BEEN IN POOR HEALTH FOR SOME TIME, BUT HIS
CONDITION REPORTEDLY IMPROVED IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1978
AFTER HE ADOPTED A STRICT ROUTINE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
REDUCED PUBLIC APPEARANCES. IT WAS RUMORED IN ANKARA THAT
PRIMIN ECEVIT'S RATHER SUDDEN DECISION TO VISIT BULGARIA IN
EARLY MAY CAME ABOUT WHEN KORUTURK WAS PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO
TRAVEL IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-OUTSTANDING BULGARIAN INVITATION.
THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH IS A FAVORITE TOPIC OF GOSSIP HERE,
AND THE JUNE 5 ANNOUNCEMENT ADDS TO LOCAL SPECULATION THAT THE
75-YEAR OLD KORUTURK MAY BE UNABLE TO FINISH HIS TERM
WHICH EXPIRES IN 1981.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, ITINERARY, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA04247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780235-1062
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780694/aaaadclp.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa246e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2483648
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILL HEALTH FORCES CANCELLATION OF KORUTURK VISIT TO BULGARIA
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, TU, BU, (KORUTURK, FAHRI)
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa246e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014